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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY: Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 20 MAR 50

SUBJECT Fortifications on Vis and Lastovo Islands

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1. Vis and Lastovo Islands have been fortified by the Yugoslav authorities. The total number of men in the garrisons on these islands is in the neighborhood of 30,000.
 2. The fortifications, as well as the emplacements of heavy artillery and anti-aircraft artillery, have been completed on Lastovo Island. On both islands, use has been made of the natural caves in order to achieve a system of "invisible" defense. The heavy cannons are mounted on rails leading into the caves so that they can be rolled out when they have to be used.
 3. The majority of the population on Lastovo Island has been moved to the Yugoslav mainland. These persons who have remained on the island may not wander more than 200 meters from the villages.
 4. Vis Island is an old stronghold of Tito Partisans. It is currently being fortified like Lastovo. The village of Konica (sic) has been entirely evacuated and taken over for the purpose of housing specialists, technicians and officers who are working on the fortifications.

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